

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10
/104 W

-----021733Z 026812 /43

R 011650Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4146
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR UN
SUBJ: U. N. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 62223, STATE 68083

1. I CALLED ON SECRETARY GENERAL WEITNAUER THIS MORNING
AND MADE ALL THE POINTS CONTAINED IN STATE 62223. HE LISTENED
WITH SYMPATHY BUT WITH LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT TO THE
FIRST FIVE. ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, HOWEVER, HE
LAUNCHED INTO THE DIALOGUE I HAD INITIALLY URGED.

2. WEITNAUER ASKED ME WHETHER OUR GOVERNMENT HAS INITIATED
ANY PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WITH OUR EUROPEAN FRIENDS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION. I SAID I KNEW THAT THERE HAD BEEN
EXCHANGES OF VIEWS AT VARIOUS LEVELS BUT KNEW OF NO FORMAL
CONSULTATIVE INITIATIVE. WEITNAUER REMINDED ME THAT
SWITZERLAND HAD BEEN ACTIVE AT HELSINKI AND WOULD VERY MUCH
APPRECIATE BEING INCLUDED IN ANY INITIATIVE WE MIGHT TAKE
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SWISS ON PREPARATIONS FOR
BELGARDE. WEITNAUER ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AND EXPRESSED
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HIS GRATIFICATION.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE, WEITNAUER SAID
THERE WERE TWO ELEMENTS IN THE SWISS VIEW: THE FIRST
WAS THE HISTORIC SWISS ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPAL OF
LIBERTY. THE SECOND WAS A DEGREE OF CONCERN THAT

WESTERN EFFORTS COULD PROVE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND CAUSE THE DISSIDENTS THEMSELVES TO SUFFER.

4. WEITNAUER SAID THAT THE SWISS "ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION" IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE MAY DIFFER IN SOME DEGREE FROM OUR OWN. HE SAID THAT THE SWISS GOVERNMENT DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS PRESENTLY A "GROUND SWELL" OF DISCONTENT IN THE SOVIET UNION OR THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAT MIGHT BE COMPARED TO HUNGARY IN 1956 OR CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968. ESSENTIALLY THE SWISS BELIEVE THAT THE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF A SOMEWHAT LIMITED GROUP OF INTELLECTUALS.

5. I RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT I DID NOT BELIEVE ANY RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN SPOKESMAN HAD SUGGESTED THAT THERE WAS ANY "GROUND SWELL" OF MASS UNREST. I POINTED OUT THAT THE CONVICTIONS AND PRINCIPLES OUR PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC AND THAT CONCERN FOR BASIC HUMAN VALUES IS DEEPLY FELT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT NATIONAL OR IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTION IS ENTIRELY A ONE-WAY STREET. WE ALSO TAKE SERIOUSLY THE RESPONSIBILITIES THE SOVIETS AND WE SHARE UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND UNDER OTHER MULTILATERAL COMMITMENTS. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION FOLLOWED, DURING WHICH WEITNAUER AND I AGREED THAT SWISS AND AMERICAN PERCEPTIONS ARE BASICALLY CLOSE.

6. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE PROSPECTS FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. WEITNAUER EXPRESSED THE HOPE OF THE SWISS GOVERNMENT THAT THE BELGRADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BECOME A "TRIBUNAL". HE SAID THAT THE SWISS UNDERSTAND THAT THERE MUST BE A "BALANCE SHEET" OF PROGRESS UNDER BASKET 3 AND A CALM AND OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF OUR EXPERIENCE, BUT HE REITERATED HIS CONVICTION THAT "A FRONTAL ATTACK CANNOT CHANGE THE WORLD OF EASTERN EUROPE." HE ALSO SAID WE COULD EXPECT A MASSIVE COUNTER-ATTACK FROM THE EASTERN BLOC AT BELGRADE, EMPHASIZING THAT HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE BALANCED BY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS. I ASSURED WEITNAUER THAT WE HAD NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE SOVIET PROPENSITY TO REGARD ATTACK AS THE BEST DEFENSE.

7. REGARDING THE U S DESIRE TO MOVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BACK TO NEW YORK, WEITNAUER ALLUDED TO MY RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH DE ZEIGLER. (SEE BERN 1276) I HAD A SECOND CONVERSATION WITH DE ZEIGLER YESTERDAY. HE EXPRESSED PLEASURE AND GRATIFICATION AT HAVING MET ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES IN GENEVA AND SAID HE HAD TOLD MR MAYNES

THAT THE SWISS GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE A PARTICULAR
POINT OF KEEPING IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH US ON UNITED
NATIONS QUESTION, NOT ONLY IN GENEVA AND NEW YORK,
BUT ALSO IN WASHINGTON AND BERN). DAVIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, SPEECHES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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